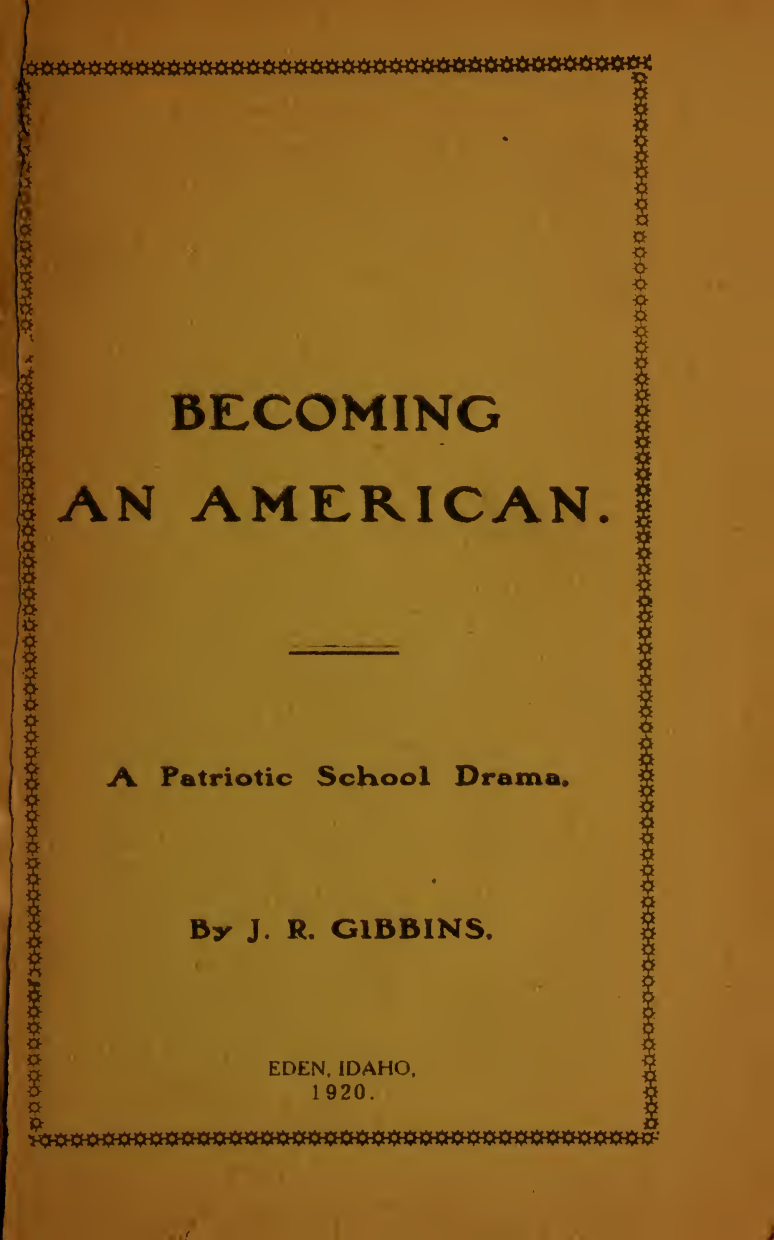




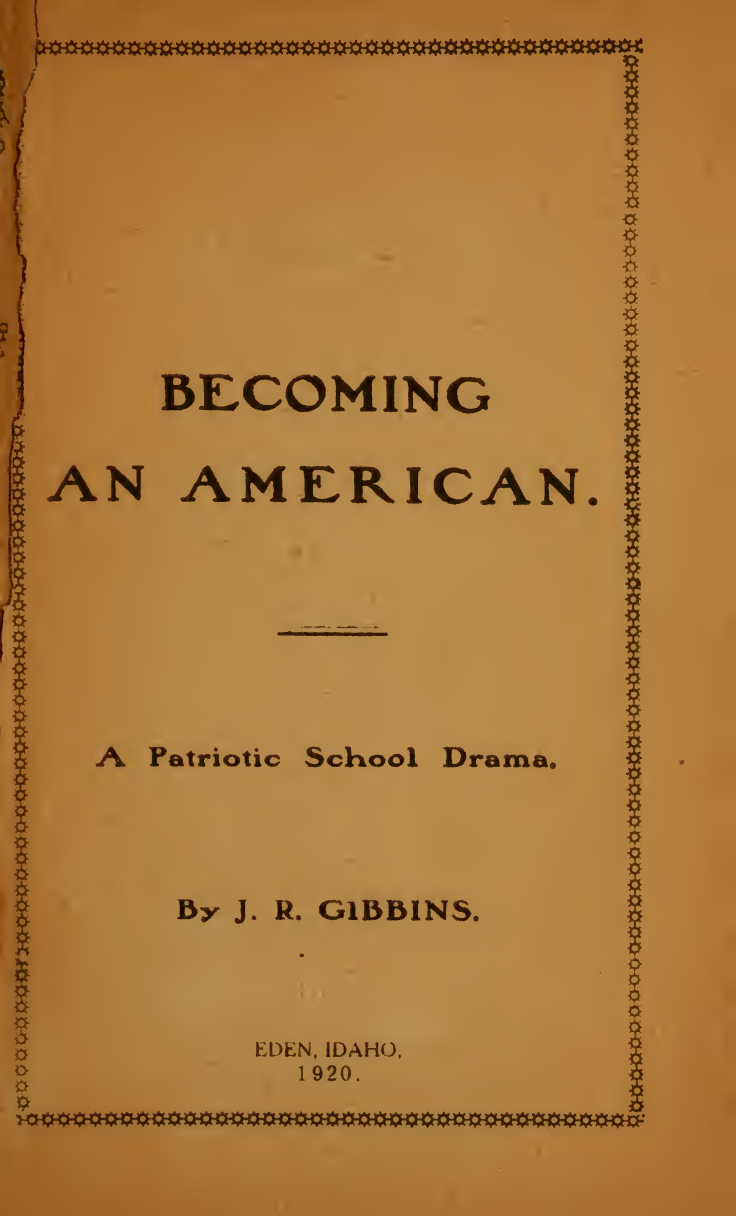
BECOMING AN AMERICAN.

A Patriotic School Drama.

By J. R. GIBBINS.

EDEN, IDAHO,
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Introduction.

A problem made plain to Americans by the late war, was that they had failed to make proper effort to Americanize foreigners. Universities, colleges, high schools and grades are working at this huge task with more or less success. Teachers everywhere should give this subject earnest study.

With the above ideas in view, the following little skit which we will call "Becoming an American" was written. The author hopes it will awaken pupils, teachers and parents to a sense of duty to a foreigner.

The questions and answers for examination, except the last impersonation, ring true to the real thing as observed in courts by the author.

The Finn should be dressed in furs, the Pole in blue flannel shirt, striped overalls and red neckerchief and any costumes may be worn by the others to suit the fancy of impersonators and the exigency of the occasion. Russell Arnold should have on a soldier's uniform.

The Sketch may be localized by giving characters and places home names, making it much more interesting.

Becoming an American.

By J. R. Gibbins.

Cast of Characters.

RUSSELL ARNOLD. returned from over seas.

DALLAS HARPER, the clerk.

JUDGE STUART, rather brisk and hurried.

HJARUS RANTALLA. a Finn.

GIOVIANO MALLESANO, an Italian.

JOHN MACKIELINSKY, a Pole.

CARL CARLSON, a Swede.

OLIVER DWIGHT, an Englishman.

FRIENDS of the candidates, at least one and as many more as room and available material admits

STAGE Properties are at least five chairs, a table or office desk, flag, and large ledger,

(Dallas Harper is seated at table, arranging papers. Enter Russell Arnold.)

Russell Arnold. Hello! Dallas.

Dallas. Well! Russell! *(Shaking hands.)* How glad I am to see you again! When did it happen?

Russell. Oh, a few weeks since. How are you?

Dallas. Fine and Dandy.

Russell. Just thought I'd look in and see what's doing in Court. Big day for the Judge?

Dallas. No. Just a few Bohunks and Swedes trying for citizenship. So few the Judge thought he'd hold the session in this ante-room. Here's the Judge now. Judge Stuart, allow me to present to you, Russell Arnold, just returned from over there

Judge. *(Very briskly.)* Glad to know you, Sir. *(Shaking hands.)* Just call in the men, Russell, one at a time. Let their friends come. Seat them there. *(Points to seats. Then speaking to Russell.)* Won't you

have a chair? How are things in Europe? Unsettled of course.

Russell. Yes, Sir. We hardly even knew our own policy in Russia.

(Enter Clerk with Finn and friends.)

Dallas. Your Honor, this is Hjarus Rantalla.

Judge. Has he his petition?

Dallas. Yes, Your Honor. Here it is, *(Reading.)* My name is Hjarus Rantalla. My place of residence is Troy, Doniphan County, Kansas. Present occupation, bricklayer. I was born on the 17th day of May, 1887 in Finland. I emigrated to the United States from Helsingfors on the 3rd day of October 1907 and arrived at the port of New York on the 21st day of November. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States in the District Court of Doniphan County, Kansas, June 10, 1911. I am not married. I owe allegiance to Finland. I can hardly speak the English language. I have resided in the United States since 1907. I have never before petitioned for citizenship. *(Folds paper.)*

Judge. So you can't speak English well?

Hjarus. My niece, she read, she write for me.

Judge. You speak fairly well, and we would like to make a citizen of you, if you prove proper material. Do you believe in polygamy or anarchy?

Hjarus. Puly—what?

Judge. Polygamy.

Hjarus. I no understand.

Judge. Anarchy?

Hjarus. I no understand.

Judge. That settles the matter. You'll have to get a book and study up. Return the first Monday in April. There is no use in your applying until you can understand. *(Finn goes out crestfallen and*

Aloud. Call the next, Clerk. *(To Russell.)* Well. I wish the Clerk would hurry. *(Enter Clerk with Italian and his friends.)*

Judge. Have you his petition?

Dallsa. Yes, Your Honor. This applicant's name is Gioviano Mallesano his place of residence is Troy Kansas, occupation, section hand, Is married and has five children, and has never before made application for citizenship in the United States.

Judge. Perhaps you had best have this applicant sit down. I believe he can think better. Do you believe in polygamy or anarchy?

Gioviano. *(Wildly)* Yes, Yes, Your Honor.

Judge. Do you mean to say that you uphold polygamy and the red hand?

Gioviano. *(Discovering his error.)* No! No! by the love of Heaven! No! Your Honor!

Judge. Well, What is the State Legislature and how are its members elected?

Gioviano. Electa, electa. Dey not electa. Dey maka — stata — a senata. Dey maka representa-teef — Dey maka —

Judge. What do you mean, don't they elect?

Gioviano. Yes! Yes! Dey electa — dey maka — they divida — *(Wrings his hands.)*

Judge. See here, speak plainly. Well, in general, what does the Constitution provide?

Gioviano. De Constitution provida — housa — de white housa — de presidenta —

Judge. When did Kansas become a state?

Gioviano. It becoma in 1775.

Judge. Kansas?

Gioviano. No — No — she didna becoma — she didna becoma —

Judge. Well, what did happen in 1775?

Gioviano. Nothing did happen. Your Honor, nothing, Your Honor.

Judge. Where is the capital of the United States?

Gioviano. Topeka, Your Honor. Topeka.

Judge. This wont do. You get a book and study up. You may return to the next session of Court in April.

Gioviano. (*Groaning.*) All right — you fel — you no see me again. Too hard. Too hard. (*He goes out.*)

His Friend. Your Honor, this man has been working fourteen hours a day. He is a good chap but has had no chance to study.

Judge. Well, if he can't study, there's no use in his applying. Clerk, call the next. (*To the Friend*) Well, go after the fellow, See what you can do for him. The next, Clerk. (*The Italian and his friend go out. The Judge speaking to Russell, says —*) My! How this drags out. They are waiting for me in the next ward.

(*Dallas returns with a Pole and friends.*)

Judge. Have you his petition there, Clerk?

Dallas. Yes, Your Honor. His name is John Mackielinsky. His place of residence is Wathena, Kansas. He emigrated from Warsaw, Poland. He declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States on the third day of December, 1912. He speaks the English language and has resided continuously in the United States since the 16th day of March, 1907.

All right, John Mackielonsky. What is a county?

Pole. It is a so — big — square of the state. (*Extending his hands in measurement.*)

Judge. How many counties are there in Kansas?

Pole. There are 100 and there are five.

Judge. One hundred five?

Pole. Ya. One hundred five.

Judge. What is Congress?

Pole. Congress ees — so big. (*Extends hands.*)

Judge. We don't measure Congress in sizes. What is Congress made up of?

Pole. Congress is made up of — Yas.

Judge. Yes!

Pole. Ya.

Judge. Now see here, why do we have Congress? What is it for?

Pole. De Senator.

Judge. You mean the senators attend? Who else?

Pole. Ya — de — senators — Ya — dey coom.

Judge. Who else.

Pole. Ya.

Judge. Why haven't you studied the thing out? You have been up here once before and failed!

Friend. He's rattled, Your honor. He did better for me coming up on the train.

Pole. No one me help. Everybody too busy. I have money — get book. Nobody me teach. No night school last year.

Judge. Well, you'll have to do something about it your self. Study up and come again next term.

Pole. I no coom back next time. I coom now. You can no send me away. I no go. I want citizen paper. I have dem too. You get out. (*Pushes the Clerk. Scuffles for paper.*) I have dem.

Judge. (*Angrily.*) Show this man out of Court. We don't want him for a citizen. (*The clerk pushes the Pole out and he is followed by his friends.*)

Judge. Call the next, Clerk. (*The clerk goes out.*)

Russell. Is it true there were no night schools last year?

Judge. I am not positive. I have heard said

that the foreigners have not attended well and many night schools suspended.

Russell. They do not advertise the night schools sufficiently. Dances have more publicity. They advertise it once or twice in the want ads and let it go at that. (*Enter Clerk with Swede.*)

Dallas. Here, Your Honor, is Carl Carlson who petitions for citizenship.

Judge. Have you his petition there?

Dallas. It is here, Sir.

Judge. Let me hear it in full.

Dallas. (*Reads from paper.*) My name is Carl Carlson. My place of residence is Leona, Kansas. My occupation is farmer. I emigrated to the United States from Stockholm, Sweden on the 17th day of July 1903, and arrived in the United States at the Port of New York, on August 3, on the Lusatania. I declared my intention No. 103423 to become a citizen of the United States on the 21st day of October, 1912, at Troy, in the District Court of Doniphan county, Kansas. I am married. My wife's name is Christine. She was born in Sweden and now lives near Leona. I have two children, Thelma, born July 4th, 1915, and Ludwig, born May 2, 1918. I now owe allegiance to Gustave V of Sweden. I am able to speak the English language and I have resided in the United States since 1903 and in Kansas since 1912. I have never before petitioned for citizenship. Ole Oleson, Lief Ericsson, and Jere Kimmel, witnesses. Each of the above named witnesses have known me since 1912. I herewith present my intentions to become a citizen of the United States.

Judge. All right, Carlson. Your papers are in order. Step up here and see if your knowledge is

sufficient to make you a good citizen. What power makes the ordinary laws of the United States?

Carl. Congress makes the laws, Your Honor.

Judge. Well, when did Kansas become a state?

Carl. 1851.

Judge. 51?

Carl. No, No, Your Honor. 1861.

Judge. All right. Name a Senator from Kansas.

Carl. The Senator is Mr. Capper.

Judge. What is the highest law in the United States?

Carl. The Constitution, Sir.

Judge. Who is President?

Carl. President Wilson.

Judge. Do you believe in polygamy or anarchy?

Carl. No, Sir, No, Your Honor, It ban wrong.

Judge. This man is well qualified. Let him register in the book. (*He registers.*) Let him take the oath.

Dallas. Repeat after me: I hereby declare on oath

Carl. I hereby declare on oath

Dallas. that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure forever

Dallas. all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign power

Carl. all allegiance and fidelity to every foreign power

Dallas. prince, potentate, state or sovereignty

Carl. prince, potentate, state or sovereignty

Dallas. and particularly to Gustave V of Sweden

Carl. and particularly to Gustave V of Sweden

Dallas of whom I have heretofore been a subject;

Carl. of whom I have heretofore been a sub-

ject;

Dallas. that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America

Carl. that I will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America

Dallas. against all enemies, foreign and domestic

Carl. against all enemies, foreign and domestic

Dallas. and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same

Carl. and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same,

Dallas. So help me God.

Carl. So help me God.

Judge. You are now a citizen of the United States and may get your second papers from the clerk. (*Swede receives papers and goes out.*) Well, I must be off.

Russell. Just a minute, Judge. Doesn't it seem to you that this is all wrong? Do you think we've tried hard enough to make these men citizens?

Judge. I don't believe we have. But what can I do? My duty is to see whether they are prepared or not. If they are not, I can't admit them. That's the law.

Russell. Dallas, why didn't you shake hands with that intelligent young Swede, and tell him you were glad that he was an American citizen. Don't you want him to be a loyal citizen?

Dallas. Yes. Of course I do. I didn't suppose it made any difference.

Russell. Indeed, it makes a difference. It is up to all of us to make these fellow right glad that

they are Americans. Since I am back, I love the stars and stripes better than ever. I was willing to give up life for my country, and now I want to live for it and to give the other fellows a chance to belong to it. The crying need, Russell, is efficient night schools with teachers who are capable and willing. Visit them right in their homes and convince them for a surety that we are in earnest about them and want them for American citizens. And when they attain citizenship, welcome them right royally with music, cheers and celebrations. Let's hunt up this Swede and give him the glad hand

(Young Englishman and friends rush in.)

Friend. Your Honor, is it too late to examine this man?

Judge. Well, I am needed badly at the Court in equity, but I want always to make citizens of those prepared. Has he his petition?

Friend. Yes, Your Honor. Here it is. *(Hands it to the clerk.)*

Judge. Read it.

Dallas. *(Reading.)* My name is Oliver Dwight. I emigrated to the United States from near Liverpool, England, August, 1912, and arrived at New York, September 3, 1912. My place of residence is Troy, Kansas. Present occupation, workman in Clark Bros. Mill. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on my arrival at Troy. The war came on and I enlisted in the United States army but was rejected in the examination. My declaration is number 107462, registered in the District Court of Doniphan County, Kansas. I am single. I now owe allegiance to George V of England. I speak English fluently, having attended the schools of my native land. I

have resided in the United States continuously since 1912. I have never heretofore petitioned for United States citizenship. Wid Clark, Walter B. Montgomery, John Norman, Witnesses, each of whom has known me for two years. I herewith present my intentions to become a United States Citizen.

Judge. Very good, Oliver Dwight. Let us now see if your knowledge is sufficient. Repeat the Preamble to the Constitution.

Oliver. We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Judge. (*Surprised that he answers correctly*), Fine! Now name the eighteen powers of Congress.

Oliver. La-ba-ra, Es-ca-pa, Es-pa-ca, Da-da-ra, Pa-ma-pa, Pa-ex-ma—

Judge. Here! What's that?

Oliver. Oh, you see that's what my teacher gave me to help remember them. If you permit, I should like to write it out.

Judge. Write it. I want to see it anyway.

Oliver. (*Writes it and hands to Judge*).

Judge. Well, how's that going to help?

Oliver. Why, you see the "l" in "la" is for lay and collect taxes; the "b" is for borrow money.

Judge. Well, let's have them.

Oliver. Lay and collect taxes; borrow money; regulate commerce; establish naturalization laws; coin money; punish counterfeiters; establish post-offices and post-roads; promote science; constitute

inferior courts; define and punish piracies; declare war; raise armies; provide a navy: make rules for governing armed forces: provide for calling forth the militia; provide for organizing the militia; exercise legislation in national capital site and make laws necessary to execute the foregoing powers.

Judge. Well, since you have done so nicely with this question, I will depart a little from regular custom. Possibly you can name the Presidents of the United States in order.

Oliver. Oh yes. Wash, Ad, Jeff, Mad, Mon, Ad, Jack, Van, Har, Ty, Polk, Tay, Fill, Pierce. Buck, Linc, John, Grant, Hay, Gar, Ar, Cleve, Har, Cleve, Mack, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson.

Judge. See here, Dwight. When I ask you for the names of the Presidents, do not recite a poem like that to me.

Oliver. Well, you see that helps me remember. Since you were so kind before, I'll just write this out too. (*He writes*).

Judge. All right. I would like to see it myself.

Oliver. (*Hands it to Judge*).

Judge, (*Looking at it*). Oh, I see! That's a key to the names. (*Hands it back to Oliver*). Well, let's have them.

Oliver. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Adams, Jackson, VanBuren, Harrison, Tyler, Polk, Taylor, Fillmore, Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln, Johnson, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison, Cleveland, McKinley Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson.

Judge. Well, I'm to examine you on Government—not history. Just what, in general, does the Constitution provide?

Oliver. For the government of the United States

Judge. How many branches.

Oliver. Three. Legislative, or law-making; Executive, or law-enforcing; Judicial, or law-explaining.

Judge. Where does Congress meet?

Oliver. Washington, D. C.

Judge. Name its branches.

Oliver. The Senate and the House of Representatives.

Judge. Where does the State Legislature meet?

Oliver. Topeka.

Judge. Your answer to next question will not fail you in your examination, :—Who was your teacher?

Oliver. Charley Butts.

Judge. Well, now I am going to give you the supreme test. If the United States government should declare war on Great Britain and call for volunteers for its armies, what would you do?

Oliver. I would enlist in the United States Army, for while I loved England when her son, yet, when I came to your country it was with the full intention of loving her and living and dying for her, if necessary. I hold that flag as dear as any of your native sons.

Judge (*earnestly*), Register this man, Mr. Clerk. (*Oliver is registered.*) Let him subscribe to the oath. You need not have him repeat it. He knows it now as well as you or I. (*Oliver subscribes to the oath*) You may now receive your second papers. (*Oliver receives papers from the Clerk*). Allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Dwight, on your splendid examination and to shake hands with a new citizen of the United States. Arnold, this man did well because

he understands the English language thoroughly and correctly. What these foreigners need is more English Language. Here, (*enthusiastically, He writes a check from a check book he takes from his pocket*). Here is my check, signed in blank. Fill it for a thousand dollars, if necessary. You and Dallas here rent a room, hire teachers, run a night school and hunt up these poor fellows who have failed and teach them to become good Americans. Well, I must be off about that land case. (*Leaves in his characteristic brisk manner. Arnold and Harper look smilingly and pleasedly at each other.*)

[Curtain]

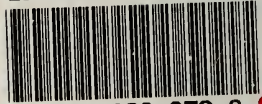
NOTE.---This Play is in two editions. This one is the first and shorter. The other includes "An Irish Family"—husband, wife and children. Very funny. Also another lady character and a wedding. Requires about one hour and fifteen minutes.







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